

217050US0XCONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
TATSUYA ANDOH ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION :
FILED: HEREWITH : EXAMINER:
FOR: COOKING METHOD FOR PULP :

#4
Plw
See Amnt/B
1-28-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-8 without prejudice and insert therefor the following new claims:

9. (New) A method for cooking pulp, which comprises the step of:

B1
a) pulping a lignocellulose material with an alkaline cooking liquor containing polysulfides in the presence of a quinone-hydroquinone compound, wherein the oxidation-reduction potential of the quinone-hydroquinone compound in the form present during the cooking is from about 0.12-0.25 V to the standard hydrogen electrode potential,

which potential is a value calculated as a standard oxidation-reduction potential (Ea) with a hydrogen ion activity of 1.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the oxidation-reduction potential is from about 0.14-0.20 V to the standard hydrogen electrode potential.